KATIVIK

Quarterly Update

*Keeping Nunavimmiut up to date on the work of the Kativik Regional Government*

# Inuit Employment Services in Montreal

The shortage of dwellings in the north, along with the lure of educational opportunities and jobs, access to advanced health care, and releases from penal institutions are the main causes of the steady flow of Nunavik Inuit to urban centres.

According to Statistics Canada at least 1000 Inuit are living in Montreal and most of these are from Nunavik. Inuit represent 10% of all the Aboriginals living in Montreal, while 45% of the city's Aboriginal population is homeless.

Since 2010, the KRG has been delivering employment services to urban Inuit with funding paid by the governments of Canada and Québec. A KRG urban employment officer provides information on employment and training avenues and delivers income security services at the Verdun local employment centre and by working closely with groups such as the Makivik Corporation.

The KRG also sponsors the Ivirtivik essential skills and employment training centre in Montreal. Ivirtivik is a safe place for the physical, spiritual and mental growth of marginalized Inuit. It facilitates their integration into the city by providing resources and support to advance their capacity to find employment or return to school. Since 2013, Ivirtivik has welcomed 66 participants: 24 have found jobs, 17 are currently enrolled in training, and 25 are unemployed or their status is unknown.

*Seventy-six per cent of participants enrolled in Ivirtivik essential skills development and training services are women.*

# Qanuippitaa Health Survey 2016

*The last Qanuippitaa Health Survey was conducted in 2004.*

The Director of Public Health Serge Déry delivered a presentation at the November sitting of the KRG Council on the Qanuippitaa Health Survey planned for 2016. The survey is tied to the strategic regional planning of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services. This new Qanuippitaa is being organized because of recent rapid economic growth, emerging new health care priorities, and an effort to empower communities to participate in health care issues and improve well-being.

# Sapummijiit, 10 Years

Sapummijiit has grown in size and expertise since it was created ten years ago. Six Sapummijiit victim support workers are now based in Kuujjuaq, Salluit, Puvirnituq, Inukjuak and Kuujjuarapik. All are Inuit.

The role of victim support workers is to "help Inuit by believing in their story, helping them to understand that it is not their fault, that they did not do anything wrong and did the right thing by seeking help and telling about the incident that happened to them."

In 2013, victim support staff attended 143 court days and offered support to more than 360 victims of crime in the region. Of these clients, 80% were women, 20% were men, and 13.5% were aged less than 18. The Sapummijiit Crime Victims Assistance Centre is operated by the KRG Legal, Socio-Judicial and Municipal Management Department with funding provided by the Ministère de la Justice du Québec.

- Kuujjuaq: 1-866-778-0770;
- Salluit: 819-255-8328;
- Puvirnituq: 819-988-2867;
- Inukjuak: 819-254-8170;
- Kuujjuarapik: 1-888-929-3742.

*Fire Fighter 1 training program graduates in Puvirnituq.*

# Usijiit Para- and Public-Transit Services

Minibuses are proving useful to many Nunavimmiut to get around their growing communities. Municipal transit is also creating jobs for local drivers and mechanics.

Between September and December 2014, training workshops coordinated by the KRG focused on minibus inspections, maintenance and parts purchasing. This training will contribute to rider safety and improve the longevity of municipal transit equipment.

The KRG also provides technical support to the northern villages for other aspects of their transit services, such as operations, route planning and class 4B bus-driver training. Financial support is made available for minibus purchases every year.

Most funding for municipal public transit is paid by the Ministère des Transports du Québec, and a little revenue is generated by rider fares. Para-transit services in the northern villages, for their part, are paid by the Québec government under mandate B.20 of the Sivunirmut Agreement.

In the coming year, transit service challenges will include implementing fares in every community, securing renewed government funding, and ensuring regular statistical reporting by all northern villages.

*Municipal transit minibus maintenance training was delivered in almost every community by the KRG Transportation Department.*

# Drinking Water Management in the Northern Villages

*Water quality sampling by municipalities ensures the delivery of safe drinking water.*

Each northern village has three main drinking water supply responsibilities. These are:

- Provide quality drinking water.
- Maintain water treatment equipment.
- Regularly sample drinking water and, when necessary, issue notices to boil water.

To help municipal water plant operators get their jobs done right, the KRG provides on-the-job training in particular on water sampling techniques and procedures. When sampling indicates that drinking water does not meet standards, municipal operators have a responsibility to inform community residents (via local FM airwaves or Facebook) and to directly contact the CLSC, the school, the childcare centre and any elders' residence. Municipal operators are required to have completed government-approved certification.

The KRG delivers a variety of other technical assistance to the northern villages regarding drinking water supply. It completed a water characterization campaign on the composition of raw water in each of the communities so that suitable local treatment methods could be identified. It also employs two technician-instructors to train municipal operators on day-to-day operations and infrastructure maintenance. Under the Isurruutiit Program for municipal infrastructure improvements, the KRG has participated in recent years in drinking water plant upgrading work in many villages.

# Fall 2014 Marine Infrastructure Maintenance

In many communities in the summer and fall of 2014, access ramp and service area maintenance was performed. In particular, gravel was added and surfaces graded and compacted. Floating docks at some marine infrastructure were also repaired and, in Tasiujaq, new armour stone was installed to correct recent ice damage. This work was carried out by the concerned northern village and in one or two cases by the KRG, with funding provided by the Québec government.

As well, in every community but two, Hydro-Québec installed street lights along marine infrastructure access roads and in service areas with funding provided by the KRG through the Sanarrutik Agreement. Alternative lighting solutions are being studied for Tasiujaq and Kuujjuaq.

Finally, inspections were carried out of deteriorating marine infrastructure in Kuujjuarapik and Kuujjuaq with a view to planning maintenance work in coming summers.

# Childcare Centre Curriculum

The implementation of the Learning Stories Project was continued last fall at childcare centres in Kangiqsualujjuaq, Quaqtaq and Akulivik with KRG technical assistance. The innovative curriculum helps educators and families focus on the strengths and interests of the children enrolled in childcare centres. In fact, children are capable people and competent learners.

The project promotes children's pride and self-esteem; ensures a culturally and linguistically rich childcare environment; measures, understands and documents children's learning; and strengthens child–parent–educator relationships and learning outcomes.

The Learning Stories Project was started at childcare centres in Inukjuak and Kangiqsujuaq in 2010, and then introduced in Kuujjuarapik and Tasiujaq in 2012 and in Umiujaq and Kuujjuaq in 2013. The project will be implemented in the region's remaining communities in 2015 and 2016.

Childcare centres are non-profit organizations operated by parent users and locally elected boards of directors.

*Childcare curriculum promoted by the KRG Sustainable Employment Department documents children's learning and ensures this documentation is shared with parents.*

# Age-Friendly Villages

Nunavik elders face various challenges in their communities. Social isolation, access to healthcare, overcrowded housing, as well as mental, emotional and physical abuse are just a few examples.

The 14 northern villages are progressively working to become age-friendly municipalities through the joint efforts of the KRG, the Nunavik Elders' Committee and the Ministère de la Famille du Québec. The goal is to give a voice to elders in their communities and in their families.

Age-friendly municipalities are committed to exploring projects that foster a supportive environment for their elders. For example, the iPad project coordinated by the Avataq Cultural Institute is enabling elders to access the Internet to stay in touch with their friends and family members living in different communities, in particular using Skype. The project is at the same time empowering elders to use modern technologies.

*Lizzie Akisuk Niviaxie was awarded a Prix hommage aînés by the National Assembly in November.*

# Good Touch / Bad Touch

Sexual abuse is a serious issue and preventing it is a regional priority. The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, the Kativik Regional Police Force, social and youth protection services of the region's two health centres, and the Kativik School Board are committed to the Good Touch / Bad Touch Program.

Good Touch / Bad Touch is generally implemented in communities over a two-week period. It involves orientation meetings and healing workshops for front-line workers, community radio shows, the distribution of information tools, and workshops in schools for students from kindergarten to grade 6. Two objectives are to:

- Develop sexual abuse protective skills among children, parents and communities.
- Reduce the health impact of child abuse on victims.

Good Touch / Bad Touch community sessions are led by a group of seven Nunavik Inuit women with certified training and strong professional experience. Since 2012, the Good Touch / Bad Touch Program is gradually being implemented in all the communities.

# Family House Projects

With support from the Regional Partnership Committee including the KRG, some Nunavik communities are setting up family houses to offer support and resources to children and their families. Family houses will offer a safe and friendly space for community activities geared to families and provide counselling, such as on parenting roles, with the participation of community resources especially elders. The KRG Council has set aside important funding to assist with building renovations for family houses in the communities.

# KRG Council

At its November sitting, the KRG Council appointed Ron Erlandson to the position of Director of the Transportation Department, and Pierre Bettez to the interim position of Director of the Public Security Department and Chief of the Kativik Regional Police Force. The regular quarterly sittings of the KRG Council for 2015 are set for February 23 to 26, May 25 to 28, September 14 to 17, and November 23 to 26.

*In November, 10 municipal recreation employees from six communities took part in training with KRG Recreation Department staff.*

# Hydro-Québec Activities

A presentation delivered at the November sitting of the KRG Council underscored the positive working relationship that exists between Hydro-Québec and Nunavik. It was for example pointed out that the municipality and land-holding corporation in Tasiujaq are involved in the analysis of potential sites for a new power plant in their community and that Makivik Construction has performed some work for to the power plant currently being built in Akulivik.

As well, further to recommendations made by the Makivik Corporation and the KRG in December 2013, Hydro-Québec is performing an audit on the energy needs of Nunavik households. The audit will serve to develop energy efficiency and awareness prgrams as well as identify alternative measures for reducing electricity overconsumption. And finally, new LED lighting that requires less electricity is gradually being installed in street lamps in the communities.

*Hydro-Québec's regional workforce includes roughly 30 plant operators; two thirds are also certified power transmission line workers.*

# Additional 2015 Housing

Negotiations conducted by the Makivik Corporation and the KRG over the past year for a renewed agreement respecting the implementation of the JBNQA on housing have been difficult. The Nunavik organizations are refusing to sign another five-year agreement without a significant increase in government funding aimed at ending the region's long-standing housing crisis. While negotiations continue, the federal government has committed to a one-year interim agreement with the same level of funding for social housing construction in 2015 as last year.

At its November sitting, the KRG Council approved additional housing construction projects with the 2015 JBNQA funding. Housing construction projects for the coming year with Plan Nord funding were approved by the KRG Council in June 2014.

| Community | Plan Nord funding | | | JBNQA housing funding | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 bdrm | 2 bdrm | 4 bdrm | 1 bdrm | 2 bdrm | 4 bdrm |
| Kangiqsujuaq | 12 | - | - | 4 | - | 2 |
| Kangirsuk | 4 | - | 6 | 4 | - | 2 |
| Kuujjuaq | 16 | - | 8 | 12 | - | 6 |
| Kuujjuarapik | 8 | - | - | 12 | - | - |
| Puvirnituq | 20 | - | - | 4 | - | 10 |
| Quaqtaq | 4 | 2 | - | 4 | - | - |
| | Total units | | 80 | Total units | | 60 |

** Plan Nord funding for social housing construction will end this year and has permitted the construction of 300 units between 2012 and 2015.*

# Improving Food Security in Nunavik

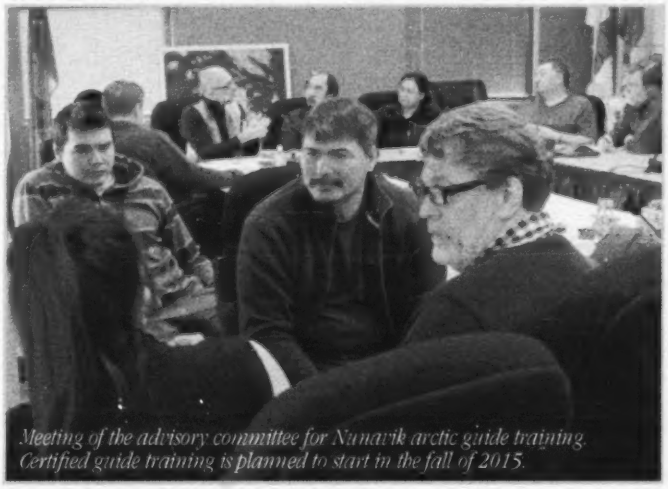
Many factors impact food security, including poverty, the high cost of living, lack of quality food in stores and wildlife harvesting levels. Different avenues for improving food security are already being pursued in Nunavik communities. There is focus for example on food banks, community kitchens, cooking courses, nutrition education and traditional skills programs.

According to the Director of Public Health for Nunavik, long-term food security will also depend on the region's capacity to mobilize stakeholders under a joint regional strategy. Food security is a complex issue that requires committed coordination between various local and regional organizations.

# Nutrition North Canada

A report released by the Auditor General of Canada in late November concluded that, under the Nutrition North Canada program, improved analysis is necessary to determine whether or not the full subsidy paid to retailers is being passed on to consumers. In April 2011, Nutrition North Canada was introduced by the federal government to make healthy foods accessible and affordable to residents of isolated northern communities.

The KRG has long criticized the program because it severely reduced the number of foods eligible for subsidy and it supports only the shipment of southern food products. In 2013, the KRG-sponsored Nunivaat Program showed that, while the prices of perishable food products had decreased in the region since 2011, overall the prices of other food products had increased during the same period.



*Meeting of the advisory committee for Nunavik arctic guide training. Certified guide training is planned to start in the fall of 2015.*

Kativik Regional Government
P.O. Box 9
Kuujjuaq QC J0M 1C0
819-964-2961
www.krg.ca